

REMARKS

Claims 15, 19, 21-27, 35-37, and 39 were pending when the Office Action was mailed. Applicants herein amend claims 15, 19, 25, and 35 and cancel claim 22. Accordingly, claims 15, 19, 21, 23-27, 35-37, and 39 are currently pending.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the consideration extended during the telephone interview conducted on April 1, 2008. During the interview, Examiner Vu and the undersigned discussed the cited references and the proposed amendments to claims 15 and 35. As requested by the Examiner, applicants have added the "ID-only mode" language to claim 15 to help clarify the claimed subject matter. Should the Examiner need additional information regarding the interview, he is asked to contact the undersigned.

The Office Action rejects claims 15, 19, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and rejects claims 15, 19, 21-27, 35-37, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Walker, Garland, and Nolan. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Nevertheless, applicants herein amend the claims to clarify the subject matter for which they seek protection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 15, 19, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Office Action asserts that "'storing in memory of the computer system a threshold for a scaling percentage' and 'determining whether node data is displayed with a scaling percentage that is below the stored threshold for the scaling percentage' were not described in specification at the time the application was filed." (Office Action, Page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree. Support for these features can be found in Figure 20 and the accompanying text, pages 26-27. The specification states that Figure 20 "illustrates the computer-implemented process that carries out the enlargement or magnification process."

(Specification, Page 26). Figure 20 includes a step, 2030, for "determin[ing] whether a scaling of a network diagram is below a predetermined threshold." (Figure 20, Page 27). One skilled in the art would recognize that in order for a computer-implemented process to determine whether a scaling of a network diagram is below a predetermined threshold, the predetermined threshold must be stored in some memory of the computer system. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the specification reasonably conveys to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors had possession of the invention at the time the application was filed. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Walker describes a system for displaying a graphical representation of a network where each network object is represented by an appropriate icon. (Walker, 4:7-18). When a user moves a mouse cursor over one of the icons, Walker displays data about the associated object by way of an "object tip." (Walker, Abstract). Garland describes a technique for morphing (e.g., enlarging) a menu item when a user moves a mouse cursor over the menu item. (Garland, 8:4-17). When a user moves the mouse cursor away from the menu item, the menu item is reversed morphed to a previous state (e.g., reduced). (Garland, 8:4-17). Nolan is directed to a technique for scaling text based on a user's preferred text size. (Nolan, Abstract). When a user selects a region of text, Nolan scales the selected region to the user's preferred text size and scales any surrounding text accordingly. (Nolan, 2:50-59).

Applicants' technique allows nodes of a network graph to be magnified when a mouse pointer points to a node or a predefined region. When applicants' technique detects such pointing by the mouse pointer, it determines whether the node is displayed with a scaling factor that is below a threshold. The threshold may be set to indicate the smallest scaling factor at which text of the node is comprehensible to a user. Thus, when the text of the node is not comprehensible, the node is magnified so that it is

comprehensible. In some embodiments, applicants' technology displays network diagrams in ID-only mode where each node is identified by a unique identifier to conserve space and magnified so that additional information associated with the node can be displayed when a mouse pointer points to the node or a predefined region.

Claim 15 now recites " in response to a mouse pointer intersecting the predefined, region...when it is determined that the network diagram is being displayed not in ID-only mode but with a scaling percentage that is below the threshold, displaying one or more of the nodes at an increased magnification level relative to other nodes in the network diagram." Similarly, claim 24 recites "when it is determined that the node is displayed with a scaling factor that is below the threshold, enlarging the node in which the mouse pointer is positioned." Similarly, claim 35 now recites "when it is determined that the network diagram is being displayed not in ID-only mode but with a scaling percentage that is below a threshold set for node magnification...and when it is determined that the mouse pointer has hovered over the displayed node for more than the threshold amount of time, displaying the node and the task data of the node at a standard magnification with standard formatting." The Office Action relies on Nolan at 2:50-60 and 3:15-20 and Garland at Figure 6, 8:4-17, and 9:53-10:15 as disclosing these features. Applicants respectfully disagree that the relied-upon portions of Nolan and Garland disclose these features. The relied-upon portions of Nolan describe calculating a scaling factor for scaling text based on the preferred text size and absolute size of the selected text. (Nolan, 2:50-60). Nolan, however, does not determine whether text is being displayed at a scaling percentage that is below a particular threshold. Nolan merely calculates a scaling factor to be applied to text regardless of the scaling factor's value relative to any other value. Because Nolan always applies the scaling factor, Nolan does not need to determine whether the scaling factor is below a certain threshold. Applicants respectfully request clarification as to what the Examiner believes in Nolan corresponds to the claimed step of determining whether node data, a node, or a network diagram is being displayed at a scaling percentage or factor that is below a threshold.

The relied-upon portions of Garland describe expanding a menu item when a cursor comes within a predefined distance from the menu item and the rates at which a menu item may expand. Garland always expands a menu item when the cursor is moved near the menu item. Thus, Garland does not base the decision to expand a menu item on a determination that the menu item is being displayed at a scaling percentage or factor that is below a threshold. Applicants respectfully request clarification as to what the Examiner believes in Garland corresponds to the claimed step of determining whether node data, a node, or a network diagram is being displayed at a scaling percentage or factor that is below a threshold.

Neither Nolan nor Garland base a decision to show information (i.e., text or a menu item) at a magnified level based on a determination that the information is currently being displayed with a scaling percentage or factor that is below a threshold. Accordingly, claims 15, 24, and 35 are patentable over the cited references, as are their dependent claims 19, 21-23, 25-37, 36, 37, and 39.

Furthermore, claim 15 now recites "when it is determined that the network diagram is being displayed not in ID-only mode and with a scaling percentage that is not below a threshold set for node magnification, not adjusting the display of any node." Applicants believe this language further clarifies that the claimed subject matter does not apply a transformation function to the display of a node when the scaling percentage is below the threshold. Because Nolan applies a scaling factor to text regardless of the size at which the text is currently being displayed and Garland expands a menu item regardless of the size at which the menu item is being displayed, neither Nolan nor Garland base a decision to adjust or not adjust the display of text or a menu item on a determination that the text or menu item is currently displayed with a scaling percentage this is not below the threshold. In claim 15, the decision to magnify a selected node is based on a determination that the node is being displayed with a scaling factor that is below a threshold. Accordingly, claim 15 is patentable over the cited prior art, as are its dependent claims 19 and 21-23.

Claim 19 now recites "determining whether a magnified node has been displayed for a predetermined length of time and when it is determined that the magnified node has been displayed for a predetermined length of time, displaying the magnified node at a reduced size." Similarly, claim 27 recites "determining if an enlarged node has been displayed for a predetermined period of time and if so, reducing the node." Similarly, claim 35 recites "when the node has been displayed at the standard magnification more than a predetermined amount of time, displaying the node as originally displayed in the network diagram." The Office Action relies on Garland at Figure 6 and 9:53-57 as disclosing these features. Applicants respectfully disagree that the relied-upon portions of Garland disclose these features. Figure 6 is a graph showing three "Zooming Rates" at which a text size attribute may be incremented or decremented: accelerating, linear, and decelerating. (Garland, Figure 6, 9:52-57). The relied-upon portions of Garland, however, provide no indication as to what triggers the reduction of text size from a magnified state. With respect to reducing the size of a menu item, Garland only describes "reverse morph[ing]" a menu item after the cursor moves away from the item. (Garland, 8:12-18). This, however, is very different from applicants' claimed technology which reduces the size of a magnified node after magnifying the node for a predetermined length of time, regardless of the duration of the magnification. Garland fails to teach or suggest reducing the size of a magnified or enlarged node based on a determination that the node has been magnified or enlarged for more than a predetermined length of time, as recited. Accordingly, claims 19, 27, and 35 are patentable over the cited references, as are claims 36, 37, and 39, which depend from claim 35.

Claim 15 now recites "in response to a mouse pointer intersecting the predefined, region...when it is determined that the network diagram is being displayed in ID-only mode, displaying one or more of the nodes at an increased magnification level relative to other nodes in the network diagram." Similarly, claim 35 recites "when it is determined that...the network diagram is being displayed in ID-only mode...and when it is determined that the mouse pointer has hovered over the displayed node for more than the threshold amount of time, displaying the node and the task data of the node at a standard

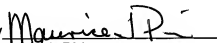
magnification with standard formatting." For the sake of clarity, applicants herein amend claim 15 to recite "when the network diagram is displayed in ID-only mode, the display of each node includes displaying a unique identifier associated with each node and does not include displaying any other data." Similarly, claim 35 now recites "when the network diagram is displayed in ID-only mode, the display of each node includes displaying the unique identifier assigned to the task represented by each node and does not include displaying any other task data." The Office Action points to Garland 4:20-24 and 5:5-10 as disclosing "the network diagram being displayed in ID-only mode." Applicants respectfully disagree that Garland discloses displaying a network diagram in ID-only mode or basing a determination to display a node at a magnified level on whether a network diagram is being displayed in ID-only mode. The relied-upon portions of Garland describe various structures and related attributes "for forming the displayed command entries" and a display structure editor. (Garland, 4:14-24, 5:1-10). The visible structures allow a user to customize each display of each menu item. For example, a user may customize the text, font size, shape, border, and color of a menu item when it is highlighted and provide alternative attribute settings for displaying the menu item when the menu item is not highlighted. (Garland, Figure 2, 4:14-24). Garland, however, does not base a decision to display a node at a magnified level on a determination that a diagram is being displayed in a mode in which each node is represented by a unique identifier. As discussed above, because Garland always morphs a selected menu item, Garland does not need to determine how the node is represented. Furthermore, because Garland does not disclose displaying a node with a unique identifier, Garland fails to disclose the ID-only mode recited in claim 35. For the foregoing reasons, claims 15 and 35 are patentable over the cited references, as are their dependent claims 19, 21-23, 36, 37, and 39. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268823US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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